

*Oliver Snowe*  
S.L.C.

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. SNOWE (for herself *Mr. Bond and Mr. Burns*)

\_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was read twice  
and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To provide for the reauthorization of programs administered  
by the Small Business Administration that assist small  
business concerns owned and controlled by women, and  
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Women's Small Busi-  
5 ness Programs Improvement Act of 2003".

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF WOMEN'S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.**

7 Section 29(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
8 656(g)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “in  
3 the areas of—

4 “(I) starting and operating”; and  
5 inserting the following:

6 “to solve problems concerning operations,  
7 manufacturing, technology, finance, inter-  
8 national trade, and other disciplines re-  
9 quired for—

10 “(I) starting, operating, and  
11 growing”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “,  
13 the National Women’s Business Council, and  
14 the Association of Women’s Business Centers”  
15 before the period at the end; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(3) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR WOMEN-  
18 OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.—The Assistant Admin-  
19 istrator, in consultation with the Association of  
20 Women’s Business Centers, the National Women’s  
21 Business Council, and the Interagency Committee on  
22 Women’s Business Enterprise, shall develop pro-  
23 grams and services for women-owned businesses (as  
24 defined in section 408 of the Women’s Business

1 Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 631 note)) that  
2 provide goods or services in the areas of—

3 “(A) manufacturing;

4 “(B) technology;

5 “(C) professional services;

6 “(D) travel and tourism;

7 “(E) international trade; and

8 “(F) Federal Government contract busi-  
9 ness development.

10 “(4) TRAINING.—The Administration shall pro-  
11 vide sufficient training for business ownership rep-  
12 resentatives and technical representatives within the  
13 district offices of the Administration to enable these  
14 staffs to carry out their responsibilities under this  
15 section.”.

16 **SEC. 3. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

17 (a) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER GRANTS PRO-  
18 GRAM.—Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
19 656) is amended by striking subsection (b) through (f)  
20 and inserting the following:

21 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration is au-  
23 thorized to award grants, to be known as ‘Women’s  
24 Business Center Grants’, to private nonprofit orga-  
25 nizations to conduct 3-year projects for the benefit

1 of small business concerns owned and controlled by  
2 women. At the end of the initial 3-year grant period,  
3 and every 3 years thereafter, the grant recipient  
4 may apply to renew the grant in accordance with  
5 this subsection and subsection (e)(2).

6 “(2) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administration  
8 may enter into annual contracts with grant re-  
9 cipients under this subsection to perform the  
10 services described under paragraph (3) only to  
11 the extent and in the amount provided by ap-  
12 propriated funds.

13 “(B) TERMINATION.—If any grant recipi-  
14 ent under this subsection does not fulfill its  
15 contractual obligations during the 3-year period  
16 of the grant, the Administration may terminate  
17 the grant.

18 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under  
19 paragraph (1) shall be used to provide—

20 “(A) financial assistance, including train-  
21 ing and counseling in how to apply for and se-  
22 cure business credit and investment capital,  
23 preparing and presenting financial statements,  
24 and managing cash flow and other financial op-  
25 erations of a business concern;

1           “(B) management assistance, including  
2           training and counseling in how to plan, orga-  
3           nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-  
4           ity and function of a small business concern;  
5           and

6           “(C) marketing assistance, including train-  
7           ing and counseling in identifying and seg-  
8           menting domestic and international market op-  
9           portunities, preparing and executing marketing  
10          plans, developing pricing strategies, locating  
11          contract opportunities, negotiating contracts,  
12          and utilizing varying public relations and adver-  
13          tising techniques.

14          “(4) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

15               “(A) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER  
16               GRANTS.—As a condition of receiving financial  
17               assistance under this section, the grant recipi-  
18               ent shall agree to obtain, after its application  
19               has been approved and notice of award has  
20               been issued, cash contributions from non-Fed-  
21               eral sources as follows:

22                       “(i) In the first and second years, 1  
23                       non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dol-  
24                       lars provided under the grant.

1                   “(ii) In the third year, 1 non-Federal  
2                   dollar for each Federal dollar provided  
3                   under the grant.

4                   “(iii) In each renewal period, 1 non-  
5                   Federal dollar for each Federal dollar pro-  
6                   vided under the grant.

7                   “(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBU-  
8                   TIONS.—Not more than ½ of the non-Federal  
9                   sector matching assistance may be in the form  
10                  of in-kind contributions that are budget line  
11                  items only, including office equipment and of-  
12                  fice space.

13                  “(C) FAILURE TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL  
14                  FUNDING.—If any grant recipient fails to ob-  
15                  tain the required non-Federal contribution dur-  
16                  ing any project, it shall not be eligible there-  
17                  after for advance disbursements pursuant to  
18                  subparagraph (D) during the remainder of that  
19                  project, or for any other project for which it is  
20                  or may be funded by the Administration. Before  
21                  approving assistance to the grant recipient for  
22                  any other projects, the Administration shall  
23                  specifically determine whether the Administra-  
24                  tion believes that the grant recipient will be  
25                  able to obtain the requisite non-Federal funding

1 and enter a written finding setting forth the  
2 reasons for making such determination.

3 “(D) FORM OF FEDERAL CONTRIBU-  
4 TIONS.—The financial assistance authorized  
5 pursuant to this section may be made by grant,  
6 contract, or cooperative agreement and may  
7 contain such provision, as necessary, to provide  
8 for payments in lump sum or installments, and  
9 in advance or by way of reimbursement. The  
10 Administration may disburse up to 25 percent  
11 of each year’s Federal share awarded to a grant  
12 recipient after notice of the award has been  
13 issued and before the non-Federal sector match-  
14 ing funds are obtained.

15 “(5) APPLICATION SUBMISSION.—Each organi-  
16 zation desiring a grant under this subsection, shall  
17 submit to the Administration an application that  
18 contains—

19 “(A) a certification that the applicant—

20 “(i) is a private nonprofit organiza-  
21 tion;

22 “(ii) employs an executive director or  
23 program manager to manage the center;  
24 and

1                   “(iii) as a condition of receiving a  
2                   grant under this subsection, agrees—

3                   “(I) to receive a site visit as part  
4                   of the final selection process;

5                   “(II) to undergo an annual pro-  
6                   grammatic and financial examination;  
7                   and

8                   “(III) to the maximum extent  
9                   practicable, to remedy any problems  
10                  identified pursuant to the site visit or  
11                  examination under subclauses (I) and  
12                  (II);

13                  “(B) information demonstrating that the  
14                  applicant has the ability and resources to meet  
15                  the needs of the market to be served by the  
16                  women’s business center site for which a grant  
17                  is sought, including the ability to comply with  
18                  the matching requirement under paragraph (4);

19                  “(C) information relating to assistance  
20                  provided by the women’s business center site  
21                  for which a grant is sought in the area in which  
22                  the site is located, including—

23                  “(i) the number of individuals as-  
24                  sisted;



1                   “(ii) the number of hours of coun-  
2                   seling, training, and workshops provided;  
3                   and

4                   “(iii) the number of startup business  
5                   concerns created;

6                   “(D) information demonstrating the effec-  
7                   tive experience of the applicant in—

8                   “(i) conducting financial, manage-  
9                   ment, and marketing assistance programs,  
10                  as described under paragraph (3), which  
11                  are designed to teach or upgrade the busi-  
12                  ness skills of women who are business own-  
13                  ers or potential business owners;

14                  “(ii) providing training and services to  
15                  a representative number of women who are  
16                  both socially and economically disadvan-  
17                  taged; and

18                  “(iii) using resource partners of the  
19                  Administration and other entities, such as  
20                  universities;

21                  “(E) a 3-year plan that projects the ability  
22                  of the women’s business center site for which a  
23                  grant is sought—

24                  “(i) to serve women business owners  
25                  or potential owners in the future by im-

1           proving training and counseling activities;  
2           and

3           “(ii) to provide training and services  
4           to a representative number of women who  
5           are both socially and economically dis-  
6           advantaged; and

7           “(F) any additional information that the  
8           Administration may reasonably require.

9           “(6) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICA-  
10          TIONS.—

11           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administration  
12          shall—

13           “(i) review each application submitted  
14           under paragraph (5) based on the informa-  
15           tion provided in such paragraph and the  
16           criteria set forth under subparagraph (B);  
17           and

18           “(ii) as part of the final selection  
19           process, conduct a site visit at each wom-  
20           en’s business center for which a grant is  
21           sought.

22           “(B) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

23           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administra-  
24           tion shall evaluate and rank applicants in  
25           accordance with predetermined selection

1 criteria that shall be stated in terms of rel-  
2 ative importance. Such criteria and their  
3 relative importance shall be made publicly  
4 available and stated in each solicitation for  
5 applications made by the Administration.

6 “(ii) REQUIRED CRITERIA.—The se-  
7 lection criteria under clause (i) shall  
8 include—

9 “(I) the experience of the appli-  
10 cant in conducting programs or ongo-  
11 ing efforts designed to impart or up-  
12 grade the business skills of women  
13 business owners or potential owners;

14 “(II) the ability of the applicant  
15 to commence a project within a min-  
16 imum amount of time;

17 “(III) the ability of the applicant  
18 to provide training and services to a  
19 representative number of women who  
20 are both socially and economically dis-  
21 advantaged; and

22 “(IV) the location for the wom-  
23 en’s business center site proposed by  
24 the applicant.

1           “(C) RECORD RETENTION.—The Adminis-  
2           tration shall maintain a copy of each applica-  
3           tion submitted under this subsection for not  
4           less than 7 years.

5           “(7) DATA COLLECTION.—Consistent with the  
6           annual report to Congress under subsection (g),  
7           each women’s business center site that is awarded a  
8           grant shall, to the maximum extent practicable, col-  
9           lect information relating to—

10           “(A) the number of individuals assisted;

11           “(B) the number of hours of counseling  
12           and training provided and workshops con-  
13           ducted;

14           “(C) the number of startup business con-  
15           cerns formed;

16           “(D) any available gross receipts of as-  
17           sisted concerns; and

18           “(E) the number of jobs created, main-  
19           tained, or lost at assisted concerns.

20           “(8) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Notwithstanding  
21           any other provision of law, a contract or cooperative  
22           agreement, in effect on the date of enactment of the  
23           Women’s Small Business Programs Improvement  
24           Act of 2003, that awards a sustainability grant to  
25           a Women’s Business Center, shall remain in full

1 force and effect under the terms, and for the dura-  
2 tion, of such contract or agreement.

3 “(c) ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS CEN-  
4 TERS.—

5 “(1) RECOGNITION.—The Administration shall  
6 recognize the existence and activities of an associa-  
7 tion formed by the Women’s Business Centers to ad-  
8 dress matters of common concern.

9 “(2) CONSULTATION.—The Administration  
10 shall consult with the association described under  
11 paragraph (1) to develop—

12 “(A) a request for proposal to deliver as-  
13 sistance under this section;

14 “(B) a training program for the staff of  
15 the Women’s Business Centers; and

16 “(C) policies and procedures for governing  
17 the general operations and administration of  
18 the Women’s Business Center Program.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 29 of the  
20 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), (i),  
22 (j), and (k) as subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h),  
23 respectively.

1           (2) in subsection (e)(2), as redesignated by  
2           paragraph (1), by striking “to award a contract (as  
3           a sustainability grant) under subsection (l) or”;

4           (3) in subsection (h), as redesignated by para-  
5           graph (1)—

6           (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
7           follows:

8           “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
9           appropriated to carry out the provisions of this sec-  
10          tion, to remain available until expended—

11                 “(A) \$14,500,000 for fiscal year 2004;

12                 “(B) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2005; and

13                 “(C) \$17,500,000 for fiscal year 2006.”;

14           and

15           (B) by striking paragraph (4); and

16           (4) by striking subsection (l).

17   **SEC. 4. NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL.**

18          (a) COSPONSORSHIP AUTHORITY.—Section 406 of  
19          the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C.  
20          631 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21          “(e) COSPONSORSHIP AUTHORITY.—The Council is  
22          authorized to enter into cosponsorship agreements with  
23          public and private entities to carry out its duties under  
24          this section.”.

1 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 407 of the Women’s  
2 Business Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is  
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(j) REPRESENTATION OF MEMBER ORGANIZA-  
5 TIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), a national wom-  
6 en’s business organization or small business that is rep-  
7 resented on the Council may replace its representative  
8 member on the Council at any time during the service  
9 term to which that member was appointed.”.

10 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES.—The Wom-  
11 en’s Business Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 631  
12 note) is amended by inserting after section 407, the fol-  
13 lowing new section:

14 **“SEC. 408. COMMITTEES.**

15 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There are established within  
16 the Council—

17 “(1) the Committee on Manufacturing, Tech-  
18 nology, and Professional Services;

19 “(2) the Committee on Travel, Tourism, and  
20 International Trade; and

21 “(3) the Committee on Federal Procurement  
22 and Contracting.

23 “(b) DUTIES.—The Committees established under  
24 subsection (a) shall perform such duties as the chairperson  
25 shall direct.”.

1 (d) REPOSITORY FOR HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS.—  
2 Section 409 of the Women’s Business Ownership Act of  
3 1988 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by adding at the  
4 end the following:

5 “(e) REPOSITORY FOR HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS.—  
6 The Council shall establish a repository for historical doc-  
7 uments relating to women’s ownership of small businesses  
8 in the United States.”.

9 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
10 410(a) of the Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988  
11 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended by striking “2001  
12 through 2003, of which \$550,000” and inserting “2004  
13 through 2006, of which 30 percent”.

14 **SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN’S BUSINESS**  
15 **ENTERPRISE.**

16 (a) CHAIRPERSON.—Section 403(b) of the Women’s  
17 Business Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is  
18 amended—

19 (1) by striking “Not later” and inserting the  
20 following:

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(2) VACANCY.—In the event that a chair-  
24 person is not appointed under paragraph (1), the  
25 Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Admin-



1       istration shall serve as acting chairperson of the  
2       Interagency Committee until a chairperson is ap-  
3       pointed under paragraph (1).”.

4       (b) POLICY ADVISORY GROUP.—Section 401 of the  
5       Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 631  
6       note) is amended—

7               (1) by striking “There” and inserting the fol-  
8       lowing:

9       “(a) IN GENERAL.—There”; and

10              (2) by adding at the end the following:

11       “(b) POLICY ADVISORY GROUP.—

12              “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established  
13       within the Interagency Committee a Policy Advisory  
14       Group to assist the chairperson in developing poli-  
15       cies and programs under this Act.

16              “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Policy Advisory  
17       Group shall be composed of—

18                   “(A) 1 representative from the Small Busi-  
19       ness Administration;

20                   “(B) 1 representative from the Depart-  
21       ment of Commerce;

22                   “(C) 1 representative from the Department  
23       of Labor;

24                   “(D) 1 representative from the Depart-  
25       ment of Defense;

1                   “(E) 1 representative from the Association  
2                   of Women’s Business Centers; and

3                   “(F) 2 representatives from the National  
4                   Women’s Business Council.”.

5           (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES.—Section  
6 401 of the Women’s Business Ownership Act of 1988 (15  
7 U.S.C. 631 note), as amended by subsection (b), is further  
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

9           “(c) SUBCOMMITTEES.—

10           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There are established  
11           within the Interagency Committee—

12                   “(A) the Subcommittee on Manufacturing,  
13                   Technology, and Professional Services;

14                   “(B) *the Subcommittee on Travel, Tour-*  
15                   ism, and International Trade; and

16                   “(C) the Subcommittee on Federal Pro-  
17                   curement and Contracting.

18           “(2) DUTIES.—The Subcommittees established  
19           under paragraph (1) shall perform such duties as  
20           the chairperson shall direct.”.

21 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT.**

22           Section 29(g)(1) of the Small Business Act, as  
23 amended by this Act, is further amended by striking “The  
24 Administration” and inserting “Not later than November  
25 1st of each year, the Administration”.

1 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       This Act, and the amendments made by this Act,  
3 shall take effect on October 1, 2003.